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Sweet said they maintain that structure both because the dancers enjoy “leveling up” over the years and anticipating what piece they will advance to, but also because those who stay at the same level for consecutive years already know the routine — meaning, they get better the second go-round and the instructors can spend less class time teaching choreography.

“It is a nice win all around, where we can get some more technique into our classes without having to learn the new choreography every winter,” Sweet said.

The recital is also structured to be affordable for the performers themselves. They don’t have to pay recital fees or buy a specific costume for their numbers. Instead, they make their own based on what they already own, such as Christmas pajamas for the toddlers. The goal, Sweet said, is to make the recital “very economical and fun and festive.”

This year, the roughly two dozen dancers who performed at Disneyland earlier this month will perform these same routines at the recital. Hip hop and cheer students, who performed during halftime at a recent Seaside High School girls’ basketball game, will do their numbers as the audience arrives.

“We are going to let them be the pre-game show,” Sweet said.

‘Better than a movie’

For the dancers, being on stage is a riveting experience, especially as they absorb the audience’s response and feed off the energy.



Students at the Encore Dance Studio practice a routine.

Smith’s favorite part is watching “all the faces getting excited about what’s going to happen next.” When people are not feeling their best, they may turn on a movie or some other form of entertainment, she said.

“Being there in real life is better than a movie, I think,” she said. “With all the music, the energy from the dancers comes

to you.”

Kaydence Bagley, 8, said that when watching a dance performance “you’re usually smiling or laughing,” waiting for the climax of each piece.

She is excited for the audience to enjoy the recital. “It will make other people happy for the holidays,” she said.




A class warms up at the Encore Dance Studio.

Candy and cars

Additional community partners are involved for this year’s recital.

Under the Big Top toy store, in the Seaside Carousel Mall, is giving patrons a 20-percent discount if they purchase the toy for the toy drive.

During the show, the nonprofit Encore Performing Arts Foundation will draw the winning ticket for a 2018 Toyota IA, which the organization purchased from Lum’s Auto Center at a discount. For the past few weeks, the studio has been selling 600 tickets for the drawing at \$50 apiece to raise money for the foundation, which provides tuition-free community ballet classes and scholarships for dancers.

Bruce’s Candy Kitchen also donated candy for the audience to enjoy “as a thank-you for coming and bringing gifts,” Sweet said, adding, “We have a really fun show coming up.” 

COLIN MURPHEY PHOTOS



COAST WEEKEND

2018 Photo Contest

Official Rules:

Photo Contest opens Friday, Nov. 9, and closes midnight Sunday, Dec. 16.

The Daily Astorian staff will choose the top 10. The public can vote online for People’s Choice from Monday, Dec. 17, through Sunday, Dec. 23.

Digital or scanned photos only, uploaded to the online platform. No physical copies.

Only photographers from Oregon and Washington may participate.

The contest subject matter is wide open (keep it G-rated).

Entrants may crop, tone, adjust saturation and make minor enhancements, but may not add or remove objects within the frame, or doctor images such that the final product doesn’t represent what’s actually before the camera.

The winners will appear in the Jan. 3, 2019, print edition of Coast Weekend; the top 25 will appear online.

Gift cards will be awarded for first, second and third place, and People’s Choice. The best photos of the Columbia-Pacific region will appear in Our Coast Magazine 2019, due out early next year.

Submit all photos online at:

www.coastweekend.com/cwphotocontest